

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7605

INFO /AMEMBASSY MADRID 102

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USUN NEW YORK 638

CONFIDENTIAL GUATEMALA 6030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MX BH SP GT

SUBJ: MEXICAN INTEREST IN SPANISH STANCE RE BELIZE AND MILITARY
TRAINING

REF: A. STATE 227057 (NOTAL) B. GUATEMALA 5933 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.DURING VISIT HERE SEPTEMBER 10-13,
SPANISH KING JUAN CARLOS MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS (BELOW)
SUPPORTIVE OF GUATEMALAN POSITION IN THE BELIZE DISPUTE, AND
OF NEGOTIATION PROCESS TO SETTLE LATTER AMICABLY.

2. IN SPEECH ACCEPTING ORDER OF QUETZAL, JUAN CARLOS STATED:
"... ESFUERZO Y DIGNIDAD QUE TAMBIEN EJEMPLARIZA LA NACION
GUATEMALTECA CUANDO SE TRATA DE DEFENDER SUS DEROCEHOS
HISTORICOS Y SUS LIMITES TERRITORIALES. ESPANA NO DUDA QUE
ALCONZARA LA JUSTICIA QUE SUS RAZONES AVALAN Y QUE SUS
INTERESES EXIGEN, Y HACE BOTOS PARA QUE LE SEAN RECONOCIDOS,
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DE UNA FORMA PACIFICA, A TRAVES DE UNA SOLUCION NEGOCIADA."

3. TO GUATEMALAN CONGRESS HE SAID: "... Y QUIERO TAMBIEN
EXPRESAR EL SENTIMIENTO DE SOLIDARIDAD DE LOS ESPONDOLES
CON LAS JUSTAS ASPIRACIONES DE GUATEMALA RESPECTO A BELICE.
SUS DERRECHOS HISTORICOS FUERON SIEMPRE DEFENDIDOS POR LA
CORONA. VERIAMOS CON GRAN SATISFACCION QUE SE LOGRARA

PRONTO UNA JUSTA SOLUCION."

4. IN ADDITION, JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATES, WITH RESPECT TO BELIZE CLAIM: "... Y EL REY DE ESPANA, POR SU PARTE, HIZO VOTOS PORQUE ESTAS JUSTAS Y LEGITIMAS ASPIRACIONES GUATEMALTECAS ALCANCEN POR LA VIA DE LA NEGOCIACION, UNA SOLUCION SATISFACTORIA, PARA LO CUAL EXPRESO EL MAS DECIDIDO APOYO DE SU PAIS."

5. ABOVE STATEMENTS WERE UNDERSTANDABLY INTERPRETED HERE AS A SHIFT TOWARD GUATEMALA IN SPAIN'S POSITION, SINCE SPAIN MERELY ABSTAINED ON THE 1976 UNGA RESOLUTION URGING EARLY INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE. IN SUM, MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL'S CHARACTERIZATION OF SPANISH POSITION, AS HEARD IN GUATEMALA, WOULD SEEM TO BE ON THE MARK. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. REF B CLARIFIES WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT SPANISH MILITARY TRAINING FOR GUATEMALANS DURING KING'S VISIT. WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION, EITHER IN THE PRESS OR PRIVATELY, THAT TRAINING OF "COMBAT SOLDIERS" IS CONTEMPLATED. AND ALTHOUGH BOTH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA HAVE BEEN QUOTED IN PRESS AS REFERRING TO THE SIGNING OF AN "AGREEMENT" ON MILITARY TRAINING, THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THE CASE. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE REFERS ONLY TO ONGOING MILITARY TRAINING.

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7. BOTH LAUGERUD AND MOLINA HAVE TAKEN PUBLIC UMBRAGE AT STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO ROEL REQUESTING "EXPLANATIONS" OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT. LAUGERUD TOLD REPORTER SEPTEMBER 20 THAT "THERE IS NO REASON WHY SPAIN HAS TO EXPLAIN ITS FOREIGN POLICY TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY." MOLINA SAME DAY WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT GUATEMALA "DOESN'T HAVE TO ASK THE OPINION OF ITS NEIGHBORS" REGARDING ITS MILITARY REALTIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. EPISODE SEEMS ALSO TO HAVE UNCORKED SOME LATENT GUATEMALAN RESENTMENT OF MEXICO'S "BIG BROTHER" PRETENSIONS. NEWSPAPER EL IMPACTO SUMMED IT UP SEPTEMBER 23 BY ASKING WHAT HAD HAPPENDED TO MEXICO'S VAUNTED DEFENSE OF NON-INTERVENTION AND THE RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGN STATES.

ANDREWS

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Message Attributes

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